

Application No. 10/828,972

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A nebulizer head having an auxiliary gas inlet port for introducing a supplemental gas, comprising:
 - a first chamber having a closed top, enclosing sides and an open bottom adapted to receive for coupling thereto a receptacle adapted to contain a liquid medicant to be dispensed at a predetermined rate of concentration;
 - a second nebulizing chamber carried within said first chamber at a position spaced from said closed top and extending downwardly therefrom;
 - said nebulizing chamber having an open bottom adapted to pass outwardly there through entrained and nebulized liquid medicant;
 - a nebulizing nozzle in fluid communication with said nebulizing chamber for creating a nebulized aerosol from liquid medicant coupled thereto;
 - means for coupling a flow of nebulizing gas into said first chamber to said nebulizing nozzle and through said second nebulizing chamber carried within said first chamber;
 - an aspirator tube having a first end positioned in fluid communication adjacent to said nebulizing nozzle, and a second end positioned to be received into liquid medicant contained within the receptacle;
 - an auxiliary gas inlet port for introducing a supplemental gas into said first chamber;
 - said auxiliary gas inlet port having a discharge outlet in fluid communication with said first chamber ~~extending into said first chamber~~ at a position removed from the interior of said nebulizing chamber; and

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said first chamber having a discharge outlet spaced from said open bottom of said nebulizing chamber and said auxiliary gas inlet port for discharging liquid medicant entrained in said nebulizing chamber and the supplemental gas introduced into said first chamber through said auxiliary gas inlet port.

2. (Original) The nebulizer head of Claim 1 wherein said auxiliary gas inlet port and said discharge outlet are in opposed positions relative to each other, and said nebulizing chamber carried within said first chamber extends there between.

3. (Original) The nebulizer head of Claim 1 further including a receptacle for containing liquid medicant to be dispensed through said discharge outlet.

4. (Original) The nebulizer head of Claim 3 wherein said receptacle includes means for releasably connecting said receptacle to said first chamber in sealing engagement therewith.

5. (Original) The nebulizer head of Claim 1 wherein said nebulizing chamber has an open top attached to the interior of said first chamber at a position above said auxiliary gas inlet port and said nebulizing chamber extends downwardly therefrom such that said open bottom of said nebulizing chamber is positioned at a location removed from said auxiliary gas inlet port.

6. (Original) The nebulizer head of Claim 5 wherein said nebulizing nozzle is supported from said first chamber top above said nebulizing chamber for entraining liquid medicant communicated thereto through said aspirator tube.

7. (Original) The nebulizer head of Claim 6 wherein said nebulizing chamber extends downwardly within said first chamber such that said open bottom of said nebulizing chamber is positioned at a location below said auxiliary gas inlet port and below said first chamber discharge outlet.

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8. (Original) The nebulizer head of Claim 1 wherein said means for coupling a flow of nebulizing gas into said first chamber comprises an adapter for releasably coupling a source of driving gas to said nebulizing nozzle.

9. (Original) The nebulizer head of Claim 1 wherein said auxiliary gas inlet port includes means for selectively closing said auxiliary gas inlet port when not in use.

10. (Original) A method of selectively introducing a supplemental gas into a nebulizer without effecting the rate of medicant application created in a nebulizer chamber by the entrainment of the medicant due to the action of a driving gas fracturing the medicant, comprising:

passing a flow of driving gas into a nebulizer chamber of a nebulizer for fracturing medicant contained therein and creating a medicant aerosol in said nebulizer chamber;

introducing a supplemental gas into said nebulizer at a location removed from said nebulizer chamber thereby mixing said supplemental gas with said medicant aerosol from said nebulizer chamber, without effecting the rate of medicant delivered from said nebulizing chamber to a nebulizer user; and

discharging said mixture of said medicant aerosolized by said driving gas in said nebulizer chamber, and said supplemental gas, from said nebulizer.